



October Calendar

- 6 & 20** Village Board Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 1** Cons. Adv. Council
- 1** Comp. Plan Comm.
- 2** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 13 COLUMBUS DAY**
- 14** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 15** Visual Environ. Bd.
- 22** Trails Committee

Leaf Vacuum Schedule	2
Run Against Hunger	2
Halloween Happenings	2
Fire Fair	2
Summer Numbers	3
New Archeology Club	3
Upper Village Curbs	3
Village Payment Options	3
Proposed Zoning	3
Daffodil Planting	3
Croton Seniors	4
Got a Question?	4
Fall Recreation Pgm.	4
DiSanto Named to Board	4
Water Bill Reminder	4

Autumn Leaves - Volunteers Wanted

Every year, with the coming of Autumn, the leaves start falling and both homeowners and the Village DPW make plans for their removal.

In October, the Village will begin its regular vacuuming of leaves from curbside and continue on a weekly schedule through December. (See article on p.2).

At the same time, the Village is joining with many other local municipalities in promoting a program called "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em". The program, an initiative of Westchester County to reduce organic yard waste, advocates that leaves be mowed in place with the leaf fragments left on the ground. Costs of leaf removal make this alternative a good option for homeowners to consider. In 2013, the cost of leaf removal for the Village amounted to \$57,000 in labor and \$17,000 in tipping fees.

The rationale is not only that this approach is environmentally sound, it also benefits homeowners in additional ways. **It's easier.** Even when the Village vacuums up the leaves left at curbside, the homeowner still has to get the leaves there, regardless of who does the raking or blowing.

Healthier lawns. Raked lawns require nutrition to be healthy, often needing expensive chemicals in the spring. Mulching leaves in place provides a nutritious base for the grass roots and can result in a healthier lawn without the need for costly fertilizers.

Noise reduction. While lawn mowers do make noise, leaf blowers are notoriously noisy and blow a lot of dust into the air as well. Mulching the grass with a mower eliminates the leaf blower noise and minimizes dust.

Saves money. While leaf mulching may save some money for the homeowner directly, reducing the volume of

leaves to be vacuumed and transported to a compost site with tipping fees, can contribute to reducing the expenses of this Village service.

The Village Board is urging resident volunteers to try the "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" program. The Village will participate itself by using this approach in one or more Village parks. Vassallo Park will be one of the demonstration parks given its large number of deciduous trees. Leaves at Vassallo will be mowed in place

this autumn, giving everyone a chance to see how a lawn looks after such a mowing and observe its health next Spring. Other parks may be added to this list.

Residents are encouraged to join in a volunteer effort to try mulching their leaves in place this Fall and then participate in a subsequent survey to help evaluate its success.

Residents who participate in this effort can let their neighbors know by placing a small pole with a Love 'Em & Leave 'Em medallion on it in their yard. These can be obtained at no charge in the Village office where a name and address will provide a way for the Village to do a follow-up survey. Those who use a landscaping service are encouraged to participate if their leaves are mulched in place and can also obtain a volunteer medallion on a small pole from the Village.

To learn more about the program, and the science that supports it, as well as other municipalities where it is endorsed, go to www.LELENY.org.

Given the cost of DPW leaf removal, any reduction in volume would be financially beneficial. The Board is asking residents to volunteer to try the program and contribute to this organic waste reduction effort.



Leaf Vacuum Schedule

The schedule for vacuuming leaves will be posted on the village website beginning in November. Only loose leaves left at curbside will be picked up. Bagged leaves will not be picked up. Twigs, branches and other yard debris should not be mixed in with the loose leaves.



The list of streets where leaves will be vacuumed will be posted each week on Friday for the coming week. Leaf vacuuming will continue through December. You can also be notified of

the schedule by email by clicking on "Subscribe to News" from the village website. More information can be obtained by calling 271-3775.

Yard waste such as small twigs, clippings, flowers, etc. (not including loose leaves) will continue to be picked up through October on alternate Wednesdays. These should be in bio-degradable bags or in open-top garbage cans.

Halloween Happenings

The Village Recreation Department is coordinating its annual **Halloween Window Painting Contest**

with participating stores. Families and individual entries are encouraged to join the contest.



Painting will take place on Sat., October 18 (rain date is Oct. 19) from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Registration forms can only be obtained at participating stores. Look for a flyer in the store window. Completed registration forms should be returned to the Recreation Office by October 10. Windows will be assigned by the Recreation Dept. staff. Space is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to display your artistic talents!



If there is a goblin in your house, put the annual **GOBLIN WALK** on Saturday, October 25 on your calendar. All goblins, creatures and spirits will meet at the Municipal Building at 12 noon and march to Vassallo Park.

Young and old are invited. At the park, there will be some tricks and treats waiting for all participants. In the event of rain, the Goblin Walk will be relocated to an indoor site. Don't miss this exciting family event!

Run Against Hunger

The 34th annual Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger will occur on Sunday, October 19th. Events include a 10k run, a 1-mile Fun Run, and a 5k walk. This year the events will start one hour earlier than in past years as follows: 5k walk at 9:30 am, Fun Run at 11:00 am, and 10k run at 11:45 am.



Credit: Hudson Valley
Graphic Design, LLC

Registration is now open at www.runagainsthunger.com. In-person registration is available at

Asbury United Methodist Church on Sat., October 18 from 10 am to 3 pm. or at Croton-Harmon High School on Sun. before the races.

Packets with running numbers and gifts can also be picked up at these locations.

Participants and onlookers are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to help stock the Food Bank shelves.

Village Police, DPW, Fire Dept. and EMS departments are all involved in this annual event. The Run Against Hunger helps support the Croton Caring Committee and the Croton-Cortlandt Food Pantry.

Fire Fair

Croton's Fire Department will kick off National Fire Prevention Week by holding their annual Fire Fair on Sunday, October 5th from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Harmon Fire House. This year's theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives, Test Yours Every Month"

Adults and youths will be able to circulate around several "stations" to learn about such things as calling 9-1-1, Stop Drop & Roll, exit drills for the home, escaping from a window and escaping using an emergency ladder. Those that complete all the stations will earn a ride on one of Croton's fire engines.

In addition the Fire Fair will also feature a magic show, free snacks, an inflatable fire truck slide, fire extinguisher demonstrations and a display of old fire gear and equipment. There will also be information on how to join the Fire Dept. as a volunteer. Don't miss this informative and fun day!



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Monday, October 13
in observance of Columbus Day!**



Summer Recreation Numbers

Recreation Supervisor Mark Duncan reported a very successful summer. The concert and movie series at Senasqua Park was very popular as were the summer camp programs. Due to a relatively mild summer, patrons at Silver Lake Park were down from the very hot summer of 2013 which posted a record number of 7500+ patrons. This year, attendance at Silver Lake topped 5500.

The concert and movie series had attendance of 200 to 1000 per concert and 50 to 200 per movie. The Day camp program had 88-102 per session and Tiny Tots camp had 20 to 35 per session.

Congratulations to the Recreation Dept. staff for a successful summer program!

Village Bill Payment Options

When paying tax or utility bills, there are two electronic options; either by ACH (checking account) or by credit/debit card.



First you must enroll in UniPayDirect to establish an account profile. It provides

you with a quicker payment process using pre-filled account information; access to transaction payment history; payment reminders; ability to schedule payments; and soon will include eBilling.

ACH payments are free. MasterCard credit/debit and Discover credit payments are accepted. (The service provider charges a fee to your card.)

Enrollment can be accomplished online through the Village website; click on "Online Payments."

CAC Daffodil Planting

For the 13th year, Croton's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is spearheading an annual daffodil planting. This year it will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 9 to 12. Everyone will meet at Vassallo Park. One group will plant there and another will go to Croton Landing to plant more daffodils there.



This is a great family experience and it is amply rewarded in the Spring with the beautiful showing of daffodils around the Village. Past locations of plantings have included Benedict Blvd. and the hill side on Old Post Road South by Bethel Cemetery.

Cider and coffee will be provided at Vassallo Park for the planters. Everyone is asked to bring their digging tools with them. CAC member Judith Coleman is organizing this event.

Upper Village Curbs and Trees

Work on replacing the curbs and sidewalks in the Upper Village area began in late August. The Village's contractor, DLG Contracting, performed the work. They will also be doing sidewalk and curb replacements in other areas of the Village as part of the Village's ongoing program to replace both deteriorated curbs and sidewalks.



Stamp Red-Brick Detail

side of the Upper Village sidewalks was replaced, extending from Grand St. east of Holy Name of Mary Church around the corner on Old Post Rd. South to the Merwin Oak parking lot entrance.

During the work, several business owners suggested that the existing oversized and damaged trees in the work area might best be removed while the work was in progress. The Board, in consultation with its arborist, agreed. The existing locust trees had exceeded the normal life of street trees (10 years) and had been subjected to extensive Con Ed pruning. The trees were approximately 20 years old and are not considered to be appropriate street trees.

The trees will be replaced with more appropriately sized street trees in large planters in Spring 2015.

Proposed Zoning Change

A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 8 pm at the Municipal Building to hear comments on proposed changes in the Village's zoning. The changes were an outcome of the Comprehensive Plan process.

The proposed amendments will (1) create a new residential zone - RA-60 (1.5 acre), and (2) remap approximately 482 acres within the Village to Park, Recreation and Education (PRE) from One-Family Residence - RA-40 (1 acre) and (3) remap approximately 425 acres from RA-40 to RA-60. The parcels to be rezoned consist of approximately 907 acres in the southernmost and northern portions of the Village. The southern rezoning area consists of Croton Point Park, currently zoned RA-40 to PRE-3. The northern rezoning areas encompass the Hudson National Golf Club area, two Audubon sanctuaries (Graff Sanctuary and Brinton Brook Sanctuary), a small piece of the Arboretum and a narrow length of land along Albany Post Road/Route 9A. All of the northern area is currently zoned RA-40. The study of the proposed zoning amendments was performed by Buckhurst, Fish and Jacquemart as consultants to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Croton Seniors Club

Croton Seniors have returned to the Community Room in the Municipal Building for their meetings after summer meetings at Senasqua Park.

The Club enjoys social activities and informative guest speakers at its weekly meetings on Fridays starting at 11 a.m. It is open to all residents of the Village and the School District who are 60+.

Additionally, many daytime programs and trips are scheduled throughout the year. Programs range from art and music to physical well being to current events. An upcoming trip to the NY Botanical Gardens Holiday Train Show and lunch at X20 is scheduled for Nov. 19. Registration is required. Call Valerie Nolan at 271-5804 for more info.



I understand the Village Police Department has a Special Needs Database. What is this for? When an emergency happens in the Village, such as a power outage or street closures, the Village would like to ensure that residents with special needs are receiving the services they need.

A confidential residential listing of people with special needs has been established by the Village. It will be used by the Croton Public Safety Agencies (Police, Fire and EMS) to help special needs residents during emergency situations. Registration forms for the database, available in the Village Office and on the website, can be filled out and mailed directly to Croton EMS.



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
WHITE PLAINS,
NY
PERMIT NO 111

**Published for the Residents of the
Village of Croton-on-Hudson**

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

Kevin Davis, Trustee

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Andrew Levitt, Trustee

Maria Slippen, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

www.crotononhudson-ny.gov

October Recreation Programs

Encourage your child's creative talents by making jewelry for themselves or for gift giving. The Recreation Dept. is offer a jewelry making class, **Beading with Joan**, on Friday, October 10 from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Municipal Building Community Room. The program is suitable for grades 5 to 8.

Participants will design and bead their own earrings with artist Joan Lloyd. A vast variety of colorful beads will be available. Everyone can make their own one-of-a-kind earrings. Fee is \$5/res and \$6/ non-res. Registration is due by October 3.

Be sure to look at the **Autumn 2014 Recreation Brochure** online at crotononhudson-ny.gov for information on all the programs being offered through December.



Water Bill Reminder

Unpaid semi-annual water bills sent out in mid-June will incur an additional \$100 penalty charge if not paid by October 15th. The charge is in addition to the monthly penalty of 1% and a \$5 delinquency notice charge for each month the bill is in arrears. The next semi-annual water bills will be sent out on December 15th.

DiSanto Named to Clerk's Board

Paula DiSanto, Croton's Village Clerk, was named to the Executive Board of Directors of the NYS Association of City and Village Clerks. The Board is responsible for the management and direction of the Association during the year.